

The Owyhee Avalanche

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75 CENTS

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2016



Above: A motorist pulls away from the northbound stop sign at the Johnstone Road-Graveyard Point Road intersection. The Homedale Highway District is seeking comment on the idea to add east-west stop signs, too. **Below:** Homedale public works supervisor Bret Smith removes signage Friday to complete the conversion of a stretch of Johnstone Road to 35 mph all day long.

Changes in store on Johnstone Road

Speed limit lowered;
comment sought on
proposed stop signs

Motorists now will have to drive 35 mph in front of Homedale Middle School all day, every day.

Homedale Highway District commissioners have agreed to permanently reduce the Johnstone Road speed limit to 35 mph on the stretch between Idaho highway 19 and Egurrola Lane.

Previously, the 35 mph limit was in force only during school hours.

After a resident's request, highway district commissioners have proposed making a four-way stop at the Graveyard Point Road-Johnstone Road intersection. Currently, traffic is stopped on Johnstone Road with stop signs to the north and south.

Director of Highways Stewart Constantine said Steve Linder and a handful of other residents attended last week's meeting to make the request in light of

— See *Johnstone*, page 14



New HSD policy settles suit

District also to pay damages for wrongful firing

The Homedale School District will pay hundreds of thousands of dollars and establish new policy to settle a lawsuit brought by a former employee.

Gloria Lejardi, the longtime high school registrar who was fired in June 2014, and the school district came to an agreement on

— See *Suit*, page 5

Questions remain for GV officials

Mayoral applications still being accepted

The Grand View City Council dealt with mayoral succession and the city clerk's role in the government last week.

Acting mayor John Morrison, the council president, ran last Wednesday's meeting as his council colleagues accepted former Mayor Franklin Hart's resignation and discussed the next step.

Less than two weeks after Hart's resignation, the council had received letters from three citizens who expressed interest in being the city's next chief executive.

The applicants included Opal Ward, a former mayor and city councilperson, and citizens Danny Martinez and Rose Smith.

Only Ward took the opportunity to address the council.

— See *Questions*, page 5

Homedale grads head for La Raza conference



Three of the five Idaho teenagers attending the La Raza national conference are Homedale graduates, including, from left, Maya Correa, Jason Buenrostro and Beatrice Santiago. Submitted photo

Two served on FHILA state council this year

Homedale will be a strong part of a contingent of Idaho students attending the National Council of La Raza Leadership Conference.

Jason Buenrostro, Maya Correa and Beatrice Santiago, all of whom graduated from Homedale High School in May, will leave for the conference in Orlando, Fla., on Friday. They are the first HHS students to attend the national gathering.

The three students were members of Homedale's Future Hispanic Leaders of America chapter, and Correa served as the state council president during her senior year. Buenrostro was the 2016-17 state secretary.

Correa, who was an HHS honor graduate in the spring, said she and her classmates were selected after a grueling application process and because of their dedicated work with FHILA.

"Because of FHILA and CCI (The Community Council of Idaho), we have been given the opportunity to attend this year's conference," Correa said.

"We have all gotten so much support from many local people, and it's honestly just an awesome achievement."

The CCI pays for five Idaho students to make the trip to the national convention. The Homedale trio will make the trip with Caldwell High senior-to-be Eric Ramirez and Columbia-Nampa graduate Jessica Escobedo.

"We would like to thank the Homedale

— See *La Raza*, page 14



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Off-duty OCSO personnel to assist at music festival again

Owyhee County Sheriff's Office deputies will assist with law enforcement duties at a concert in Elmore County later this month.

Working on their own time, OCSO lawmen will provide extra security at the Mountain Home County Music Festival. It begins Friday, July 29 and runs through Sunday, July 31.

During its July 5 meeting, the Board of Owyhee County Commissioners (BOCC) approved a law enforcement assistance agreement with Elmore County related to the concert.

The OCSO personnel signed up to help

Elmore County are Tony Aguirre, Atanacio Montes, Moises Montes, Vern Tunnell, Rocky Widner and Greg Bishop. Atanacio Montes is a full-time patrol deputy, and Moises Montes works in the county jail. Bishop is an off-highway vehicle deputy, while Tunnell, Widner and Aguirre are Level 1 reservists.

Elmore County will pay each deputy \$36.03 per hour. The money will come into the Owyhee County treasury, and then be paid to the deputies.

Owyhee County Sheriff Perry Grant stated that, for the most part, things went smoothly for his deputies last year.

"The only issue we ran into was environmental," Grant said. "It was very dusty and windy last year. But, I understand grass was planted last year to help with it this year."

He also pointed out the fact that this will be an extra duty for the officers on their days off.

"Our deputies work very hard with little pay to show for it," Grant said. "I am always looking for extra-paying duties to reward them for their hard work and to show my appreciation."

The Elmore County Sheriff's Office will also be working with the U.S.

Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to ensure that everything runs smoothly during the festival.

The event will be held on forest road 61, off of Sun Valley Highway (U.S. Highway 20), 31 miles northeast of Mountain Home.

Organizers expect up to 20,000 people from across Idaho, and neighboring states, to attend the festival, which will be held on a 600-acre parcel.

More than 20 country music artists are scheduled to perform at the festival, including headliners Brantley Gilbert, Kenny Chesney and Jason Aldean.

— SC

From page 1

✓ Johnstone: Speed limit near middle school now 35 mph 24 hours a day

motorists running the stop signs on Johnstone Road.

"The commissioners decided that they would have some public comment and figure out what they want to do with it," Constantine said.

Written comment will be taken until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 10. Additional public comment will be taken during the commissioners' meeting at 6 p.m. on Aug. 10. The commissioners meet at the district office, 102 E.

Colorado Ave., in Homedale.

Written comments can be mailed to P.O. Box 713, Homedale, ID 83628.

A decision could be made during the Aug. 10 meeting, according to a legal notice appearing in his week's edition of The Owyhee Avalanche.

There are stop signs at nearby Johnstone Road intersections, including at Market Road (four-way) and Pioneer Road (three-way).

The speed limit change on Johnstone Road near HMS had its roots in a Homedale City Council meeting last month. Council members asked Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller and public works supervisor Bret Smith to talk with highway commissioners about making the Johnstone Road speed limit near the middle school 35 mph 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The district's cooperation is necessary because part of the affected stretch of road

lies outside the city limits.

The speed limit elsewhere on Johnstone Road is 50 mph, and it returned to 50 mph during off-hours in front of HMS before last week's action.

Smith discussed the change with HHD commissioners prior to last Wednesday's city council meeting.

Making the change only required taking down small signs indicating that the speed limit was 35 mph during school hours.

The signs taken down Friday were posted under the speed limit markers just south of Idaho highway 19 and slightly north of Egurrola Lane.

Smith told the council it would be an "easy fix."

"I even offered to do it. There's not going to be any cost outlay," Smith said. "It's just a little bit of teamwork between the two entities, which I volunteered."

— SC

✓ La Raza: Trio is first with Homedale ties to attend national conference

community for their support," Correa said.

Correa traveled the state as FHLA hosted several conferences at high schools and colleges this year. She spent four years with Homedale's FHLA chapter, serving as chapter secretary as a junior.

"Our biggest conference is the Hispanic Healthcare Career Conference that takes place every spring," Correa said.

That conference was a big part of the qualification process for the national event. Each student had to raise \$500 for the conference through raffle ticket sales and obtaining business sponsorships.

In addition to attending each planning meeting and activity, the students were required to write an essay and garner letters of recommendation. Interviews also were undertaken.

"CCI specifically looks for demonstrated leadership qualities, your involvement in service to your school and community and your involvement in state conferences," Correa said.

The La Raza leadership conference, which Correa said is the nation's largest gathering of Latino influencers, runs Saturday through Tuesday at the Orange County Convention Center.

While at the conference, the Homedale teens will have the opportunity to learn about ongoing and emerging issues in the Hispanic community, connect with key community leaders and generate partnerships with Hispanic community-based organizations.

"I'm really looking forward to meeting and making connections with the leaders that make change and empower us young Latinos to make a difference in our community," Santiago, who was chapter secretary last year in her second year with FHLA, said.

"I want to hear their stories

about the work they do and what their mission is. What I hope to take from this conference is more knowledge on what affects our Hispanic community and how I can make more of a difference."

There will be workshops on issues critical to the Latino community and presentations featuring nationally and internationally prominent speakers.

"I'm looking forward to meeting and interacting with other Latinos who seek to see a difference in the issues we face in the Hispanic community," Buenrostro said. "I hope to gain as much information as I can from each workshop I attend."

Buenrostro spent four years with the Homedale FHLA chapter, and served as chapter secretary as a sophomore.

Although the 2016-17

Homedale chapter officers won't be elected until the school year begins, Correa said that incoming junior Julia Santiago will serve as state events coordinator.

The FHLA organization was founded in 1997 with several goals in mind:

- Help reduce the dropout rate in Idaho schools and promote higher education.
- Stimulate Hispanics in becoming more involved in school and community activities.
- Motivate Hispanic students to reach their maximum potential and enhance development of school and community leaders.
- Promote unity within schools and communities and promote Hispanic culture.
- Promote awareness of the consequences of alcohol and substance abuse.

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